MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture*) : A statement is laid on the Secretary's table.

MR P. K. KURIAKOSE : May I know the number of Veterinary institutions in the State?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : There are 17 Veterinary hospitals and 9 Stockmens' Stations.

Transport of plantains.

551. * MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that plantains are not allowed to be transported from Cochin ;

(*b*) if so, whether they are aware of the fact that the Ernakulam markets are served by the agriculturists of Central and Northern Travancore for their supply of plantains ;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the fact that the Northern taluk of Parur and portions of Kunnatnad have to depend upon Ernakulam market for their supply of plantains ; and

(*d*) if the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, what action they have taken in the matter ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) to (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) In view of the answer to parts (*a*) to (*c*), the question does not arise.

Agricultural Department.

552. * MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether any experiments are carried on for seed selection by the Agricultural Department ;

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, to what extent they have succeeded in selecting paddy seeds meant to withstand the rigours of monsoons and of drought ;

(*c*) whether they are aware of any variety of cocoanut trees in Travancore bearing an annual yield of 500 nuts and above per tree ; and

(*d*) if they are aware whether any attempt has been made to collect nuts from those species of trees for distribution ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Improved seeds of "Chettivirippu" and "Ptb. 2" strains evolved in the Paddy Breeding Station at Monkompu and G. E. B. 24 and Adt. 13 selected in the Paddy Breeding Station at Adoor are able to withstand the rigours of monsoon and drought better than the cultivators' seeds.

(*c*) and (*d*) No. However attempts have been made to select nuts from good bearing trees which yield about 200 nuts per year.

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